

September 6, 2001

Lake H. Barrett, Acting Director  
Office of civilian Radioactive Waste Management  
Department of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585

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SEP 19 2001

Dear Lake H. Barrett and Department of Energy:

Having written many letters opposing the Nuclear Waste Dump/Storage in Nevada, I guess one more won't hurt.

Yes, I am opposed to the Yucca Mountain waste Dump and have been for several years. So, to expound on my opposition, I will follow your topics outline and relate what I feel in each of the areas you request my concern with:

1. No. PSSE and all documents of late do not provide an adequate basis for finding Yucca Mountain site suitable. No. It is not suitable. Ten years ago when the DOE began their investigations to see if Yucca Mountain site would be suitable, there were certain standards that had to be met before it would be suitable. Those standards were not met. So...DOE lowered their standards. Then there was more evaluations. Hmmmm. Gee-whiz Yucca Mountain met the standards.

Was there not an earthquake there about 4 years ago? Was the damage sustained to the steel liner addressed in the PSSE? Was the damage sustained to anything at the Yucca Mountain site addressed?

Does the PSSE address transport? I just read a report (not put out by the DOE but by Citizen Alert). It was addressing the transportation of low level radioactive waste now being transported to Mercury, Nevada. The DOE had declared that no low level waste would be transported through the center of the city of Las Vegas. But how can they control that? The report stated that 6 trucks had indeed driven over the "Spagetti Bowl" (an octopus of interstate freeways in mid Las Vegas) over the last few months. So how does the DOE intend to monitor the truck transport of the radioactive waste???

And if, God forbid, there was an accident of a cargo truck carrying the spent fuel waste and the pellets case was broken and the pellets scattered on the highway (or railway) what county or state would immediately fund construction of another highway to replace the now unusable portion

of the state that would be contaminated for the next 7,000 years.

Also who would be liable for the poisoning that would occur, should there be a major catastrophic collision. Would the DOE? Would the DOE pay for a new home for those living within ten miles of such an accident? The people, through the courts will look for some compensation. Will the DOE have enough funds to cover the mega-million lawsuits?

The DOE is getting much pressure from the nuclear power companies. But just think of the pressure they will get from the public, not so much now, because people are complacent when they are not threatened, but if you should push your effort to transport nuclear waste across the United States, informed people will not calmly accept their homes subjected to inevitable risk of vehicular accidents. Lawyers will have a hayday with the DOE and with the States and with Yucca Mountain. Beware. When there is money involved, one must look at all aspects of a situation. Perhaps those casks, now located at the nuclear power plants across the nation should remain where they are until the scientists discover how to safely neutralize the spent fuel.

So now I will address my suggestion: funding those major universities around our Nation whose passion is to discover ways to neutralize the spent fuel rods. Through dedicated research the answer will come.... kind of like Louie Pasteur and the polio vaccine. But there must be funding and alot of it. So, perhaps the DOE could concentrate their efforts and monies not in "positive publicity for Yucca Mountain" which is not the cure at all, but in research. Organized research with accountability, is a way to reach the light at the end of the tunnel. For years DOE has been trying to make the shoe fit. But Yucca Mountain is not the Cinderella, Yucca Mountain is one of the Sisty Uglers.

And when the technology is found to neutralize the nuclear waste: what joy! Factories can be build adjacent to each nuclear facility. Each state can then take care of their own waste, at the power plant's expense, possibly with State or Federal help/ tax breaks.

2. If the Secretary determines that the scientific analysis indicates that the Yucca Mountain site is likely to meet the applicable radiation protection standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency and Nuclear Regulatory Commission he will probably recommend it to the President. But you see, when standards are lowered to meet a supposed need, there are no standards. That is what the EPA and NRC have done. (Ever looked to see how many directors there have been at the Yucca

Mountain site?) Gazillions. Men of honor do not stoop to corruption.

3. There are many reasons why I, and many Nevadans believe that the President should not agree that Yucca Mountain site is qualified for the Preparation and submission of a construction license from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Here are a few reasons:

- a) high population area close to the storage site
- b) damage done to metal liner during earthquake a few years ago
- c) porous nature of the rock at Yucca Mountain
- d) hot springs which exist under the area which bubble to the top of the earth
- e) legal reasons which will hold up construction for years
- f) legal suits against the US government
- g) transportation dilemmas

4. No, the Secretary should not proceed with a recommendation to develop a repository at Yucca Mountain. The mechanism they should utilize is a temporary RESEARCH FREEZE. This would be a legal freeze on the DOE's obligation to accept nuclear fuel and high level radioactive waste until such time as scientific research accesses the knowledge of the systems needed to neutralize the waste.

This concept is current in, for example, computer programs, Windows to be exact. When the company is developing a new program it is referred to as VAPOR, because it is not yet totally developed, yet it is promised and even sold, in the computer industry. My example is Windows XP Home Edition. Gateway is legally selling something that does not yet totally exist. And it appears to be legal.

DOE could make a similar effort and sell to the Power Companies a VAPOR program, letting them know how much it will cost them to then neutralize their wastes. Funding to earnest researchers is a must in developing this program.

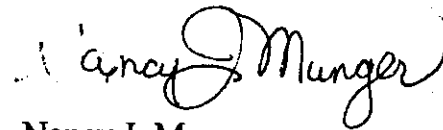
5) No disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high level radioactive waste . Storage for now will be the answer for the interim period until the scientific process is accrued and refined. If needs be, put the spent fuel and high level radioactive waste into stronger container, and leave it where it is.

6) I appreciate your kindness in accepting input from the communities across the United States. I hope your job will be easier knowing that

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some of us are not influenced by power and money, but by reason and a caring for our families.

Very Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy J. Munger". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and address.

Nancy J. Munger  
HC60 Box CH210  
Round Mountain, NV  
89045-9801